GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1720
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
SMUGGLING OF TIMBER IN ORISSA
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the killing of one volunteer and thrashing of three others by the mafia, when they tried to stop mafia from stealing timber as reported in the Hindustan Times dated January 6, 2003;

(b) if so, the details and the facts thereof;

(c) whether the mafia is enjoying free run in connivance with forest officials; and

(d) if so, the action taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to take on the mafia and save the forests in Orissa?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) The Government are aware of the killing ofone person and injury to one other by the timber smugglers while they were performing their bonafied duties.

(b) The incident took place on 31.12.2002 when Late Shri Chandra Mani Nayak of Raghunathpur village of Nayagarh district, a member of the Anchalika Sulia Van Surakshya Committee was patrolling the Sulia Reserved Forest (Compartment no.4) alongwith Shri Maguni Behera and Shri Puran Ch.Behera. They were attacked byfour armed timber smugglers in which Shri Chandra Mani Nayak was killed, Shri Maguni Behera was injured while Shri Puran Ch.Behera escaped unhurt. A Forestcase was booked against the offenders by the forest officials of the Nayagarh Range and an FIR was also lodged in the Nayagarh Police Station. The offenders absconded and there whereabouts are not known.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.